

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

As originally filed, the present application presented claims 1 through 31 for examination. Claims 11 through 16 and claims 26 through 35 were elected by Applicant, upon restriction, and claims 1 through 10 and claims 17 through 25 were withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to the non-elected invention(s).

Based upon Applicants' response, filed July 18, 2006, as set forth in an Office Action dated September 19, 2006, prosecution on the merits in the above referenced case was closed. Claims 11-16 and 26-35 were allowed. Claims 1-10 and 17-25, previously withdrawn as drawn to non-elected species, remain active in the Application.

I. Formal Matters After Allowance

This Amendment pursuant to MPEP §714.14 and MPEP §714.12 under 37 CFR §1.116(b) is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2006. 37 CFR § 1.116(b) states,

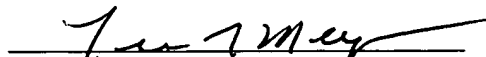
“(b) After a final rejection or other final action (Sec. 1.113) in an application ..., amendments may be made canceling claims or complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office action.”(emphasis added)

Thus, in accordance with 37 CFR § 1.116(b) Claims 1-10 and 17-25 are hereby cancelled by this response.

By action taken here, Applicant in no way intends to surrender any range of equivalents beyond that needed to patentably distinguish the claimed invention as a whole over the prior art. Applicant expressly reserves all such equivalents that may fall in the range between Applicant's literal claim recitations and combinations taught or suggested by the prior art.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that no further substantive or formal matters are presented in this case. Claims 11 through 16 and claims 26 through 35 stand allowed, and claims 1-10 and claims 17-25 stand cancelled by this response.

Date: September 25, 2006



Signature of Practitioner

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